GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2559
ANSWERED ON:07.03.2003
QUOTA OF GARLIC FOR IMPORT
A.P. JITHENDER REDDY;PRAKASH V. PATIL

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has received a substantial quota of garlic from Ministry of Agriculture for import in July, 2002;

(b) whether the Government instead of importing the garlic quota, allotted the quota to some co-operative societies, which finally sold them in the domestic market at a high premium instead of importing them;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government have ordered any inquiry into the matter;

(e) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(f) the action being taken by the Government to ensure that import quota is not misused?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY)

(a) to (c) Licences for the import of fresh garlic are issued within the ceiling indicated by Ministry of Agriculture every year. Ministry of Agriculture had recommended import of 15,000 MTs of fresh garlic in July, 2002 through the following four organizations:

Sl. No.	Name	Quantity (MTs)
1.	The Madhya Pradesh State Cooperative Marketing Federation	5,000
2.	NCCF	5,000
3.	NAFED	2,500
4.	Karnataka State Cooperative Federation of India Ltd., Banglore	2,500

Licences were accordingly issued to these organizations for stock and sale purpose. Government does not directly import fresh garlic.

(d) to (f) These import licences are non-transferable. Action can only be taken against a licensee as per the provisions of Foreign Trade (Development & Regulations) Act, 1992 for violation of conditions of a licence. No enquiry has been ordered by the Government in this matter.

It may be mentioned that to allow the market forces to operate freely, the item fresh garlic has been brought into free category from the restricted category w.e.f. 17.1.2003. Further, to protect the interest of domestic farmers, the import duty on this item has been raised to 100% from 30% w.e.f. 15.1.2003 i.e. prior to bringing the item in the free category for import. These actions have been taken in consultation with Ministries of Agriculture and Finance.